



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

Dear Executive Director:

Last year, HUD asked the Nation's public housing authorities (PHAs) to sponsor a one-day Father's Day 2011 event in mid-June, and more than 200 PHAs hosted events. PHAs across the Country held a wide range of exciting events – from fun activities for the family to job training resources for the Dads – and brought together thousands of participants. No matter the variety of events, the goal was the same: *to connect fathers and their children*. This year, the Department wants to once again **invite you to host a Father's Day 2012 event on Saturday, June 16.**

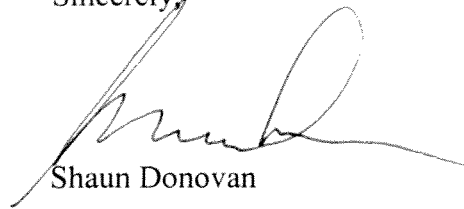
Despite all of the successful events last year, it is evident that more fathers need to be connected with their families. The numbers show that HUD and the PHAs can and must do more, given that more than 24 million children live apart from their biological fathers. Nearly 2 in 3 (64 percent) African-American children live in father-absent homes, and 1 in 3 (34 percent) Hispanic children and 1 in 4 (25 percent) White children also live in father-absent homes. Studies show that the children suffer greatly when there is no father present.

Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least 2 to 3 times more likely to use drugs; to experience educational, health, emotional, and behavioral problems; to be victims of child abuse; and to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parents. What's more, a child with a nonresident father is 54 percent more likely to be poorer than his or her father.

HUD received valuable feedback from PHAs that participated in Father's Day 2011. As part of the feedback, PHAs requested that HUD increase its efforts to obtain resources for future events. As a result, the Department is now working with national organizations, including other federal agencies, to make this a reality. HUD staff recently addressed more than 200 Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grantees at a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conference, and they are all very eager to connect with you on Father's Day 2012. In addition, HUD is putting the finishing touches on a video and a toolkit that every PHA can use to generate excitement for its event.

Like last year, HUD asks that you register your event at www.hud.gov/fathersday2012. Together, the Department and the PHAs can build on last year's events and make Father's Day 2012 a rousing success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Donovan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shaun Donovan